

Farrar-Mansur House (originally the Captain Farrar Inn) HABS No. VT-48
Weston (On the Green)
Windsor County
Vermont

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FARRAR-MANSUR HOUSE

(Originally the Captain Farrar Inn)

Location: Weston (On the Green), Windsor County, Vermont.

Present Owner: Weston Community Club, Inc.

Present Occupant: The Owners.

Present Use: Clubhouse and Museum.

Brief Statement of Significance: Originally a large tavern, then a private residence, now a clubhouse and museum, this is one of the best known buildings of its period in Vermont and a popular tourist attraction.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Original owner and builder, Oliver Farrar, who came from Concord, Massachusetts, in 1795. In 1857 to Franklin Mansur; owned by the Mansur family for four generations until 1932 when Frank Mansur gave the building to the present owners.
2. Date of erection: 1797.
3. Notes on alterations, additions and present condition: The building has been restored as close as possible to the original 18th century form by the present owners since 1932. It is filled with period furnishings; much of the furniture is from the Farrar family, and the kitchen fireplace equipment and dishes from the Mansur family. Murals in the front, west room, sometimes called the parlor or council room, show Weston in 1825 and were painted by Roy Williams after 1932. The building is now open to the public as a museum.
4. References
 - a. Herbert Wheaton Congdon, Old Vermont Houses (Brattleboro: Stephen Daye Press, Revised edition 1946), 117-119, 121, figs. 95-98, 101.

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b. Federal Writers' Project, Vermont; a Guide to the Green Mountain State (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1937), p. 330.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The first town meeting was held in this house March 4, 1800. The parlor was once used as a Masonic Lodge. The second floor ballroom was used in the 1820's as a court room.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: One of the best known houses of its period in the state, the building has been restored by the present owners.
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Two stories facing the Green.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Timber frame building with pegged and mortised beams. Clapboards.
4. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Five bay. Six panel front door; pilasters, entablature and cornice; proportion more in Classic Revival manner than Georgian; front door pilasters unfluted; five lights over. Side door similar to front door but simpler; side door lighted.
 - b. Windows and shutters: 12/12 light double hung windows.
5. Roof - shape - covering: Hip - long ridge pole. Cornice, eaves: Cyma recta, board and drip mold.
6. Chimneys: Brick.

C. Technical Description of Interior

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1. Floor Plan: Central hall, two rooms each side. Ballroom on second floor over two front rooms, 16' x 40'. Original tavern bar intact in right front room.
2. Stairways: L shaped stairs at rear right in hall -- almost 17th c. in type -- steep -- high risers, narrow.
3. Floor: Pine, random width.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, left front room. Beams exposed, originally plastered, right front room. Walls contain WPA murals of local scenes. One is a map of Weston and Andover, listing dates and locations of fifty old buildings. (See Part I.A.3.)
5. Doorways and doors: Simple moldings.
6. Trim: Chair rail two front rooms, panelling below.
7. Hardware: Mostly original.
8. Lighting: Some original.
9. Heating: Fireplaces. Including addition at rear, 7 fireplaces in 3 chimneys.

D. Site

1. Orientation and General Setting: Faces south - open.
2. Landscaping: Shade trees, lawn.

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